

9 to lock these openings against the fastener backing out. The locking plate lock screw opening is counter sunk in the second position to enable the lock screws with the exterior surface of the locking plate.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1, 2 and 3.

Amend claim 4 as follows:

92 ~~13/14~~ (Amended) A bone plate as set forth in claim ~~17~~ [3], wherein the vertical freedom is defined by a lock screw which extends through an opening in the lock plate to secure the lock plate to the fixation plate..

Add new claim 17 as follows:

~~13/14~~ 17. A bone plate comprising;
a fixation plate and a locking plate wherein the fixation plate can be fixed by at least one fastener to a bone, and
wherein the locking plate is secured to the fixation plate and is longitudinally adjustable from a first position to a second position in which the fastener is locked into position by the plate and with limited vertical and longitudinal freedom relative to the fixation plate and wherein the longitudinal freedom is defined by a sliding connection between the locking plate and the fixation plate.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Attorney Docket No. CROSS-NN-CIP